IN THE CLAIMS

Please amend the claims as follows:

Claims 1-10 (Canceled).

Claim 11 (New): A method for controlling elements that execute elementary functions of an internal combustion engine, wherein the elements are controlled by measured signals delivered by sensors, the method comprising:

determining theoretical signals that should be delivered by reference sensors at a current operating point of the engine;

calculating differences between the theoretical signals and the signals measured by the reference sensors; and

creating correction instructions for signals for the elements as a function of the calculated differences.

Claim 12 (New): A method according to claim 11, wherein at least one of the reference sensors is an oxygen sensor disposed on an exhaust line of the internal combustion engine.

Claim 13 (New): A method according to claim 11, wherein at least one of the reference sensors is a nitrogen oxide sensor disposed on an exhaust line of the internal combustion engine.

Claim 14 (New): A method according to claim 11, further comprising:

determining the operating point of the engine as a function of engine speed, of engine load, and of a temperature of an engine-cooling fluid.

Claim 15 (New): A method according to claim 11, wherein the theoretical measured signals that should be delivered by the reference sensors are determined based on a reference map or table established beforehand for particular operating points.

claim 16 (New): A method according to claim 11, wherein the correction instructions for control signals of an element are determined based on a correction map or table established beforehand for particular operating points.

Claim 17 (New): A method according to claim 11, wherein a difference signal between the theoretical measured signals and the measured sensor signals is filtered before correction instructions are determined, to lengthen a reaction time or a time for application of the correction instructions.

Claim 18 (New): A method according to claim 11, wherein at least one executing element is chosen among: an exhaust-gas recirculation valve, an injector, a solenoid valve for turbine geometry of a turbo device, a pressure sensor in a common fuel-supply rail, a flow sensor in an air-supply line or an air-intake butterfly valve, or a pressure sensor in an intake manifold.

Claim 19 (New): A drive assembly comprising:

an internal combustion engine;

elements, including reference sensors, that execute associated elementary functions; and

a control unit, including means for comparing measured signals originating from the reference sensors with theoretical measured signals at an operating point of the engine, and including means for determining correction instructions for signals for the elements as a function of a difference between the measured signals originating from the reference sensors and the theoretical measured signals.

Claim 20 (New): A motor vehicle equipped with a drive assembly according to claim 19.